Movie Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. What is the familiar nickname for the Academy Award of Merit statuette?
   - A. Oscar
   - B. Emmy
   - C. Grammy
   - D. Tony

   Correct answer: A. Oscar
   The Academy officially calls its statuette the Academy Award of Merit. It is widely known as the Oscar.

2. Which filmmaking technique makes a physical object appear to move by adjusting it slightly between photographed frames?
   - A. Rear projection
   - B. Time-lapse photography
   - C. Stop-motion animation
   - D. Motion capture

   Correct answer: C. Stop-motion animation
   In stop motion, an animator moves an object between exposures. Played in sequence, the still images create the illusion of movement.

3. Which 1939 film is known for its shift from sepia-toned Kansas scenes to a vivid Technicolor fantasy?
   - A. Mr. Smith Goes to Washington
   - B. The Wizard of Oz
   - C. Stagecoach
   - D. Ninotchka

   Correct answer: B. The Wizard of Oz
   The film contrasts its sepia-toned Kansas scenes with the Technicolor look of Oz.

4. The mechanical shark models nicknamed Bruce were built for which 1975 movie?
   - A. The Man Who Would Be King
   - B. The Hindenburg
   - C. The Eiger Sanction
   - D. Jaws

   Correct answer: D. Jaws
   The production used full-scale mechanical shark models. The Academy Museum holds the sole surviving full-scale model linked to the film.

5. What is the principal spoken language in Bong Joon Ho's Parasite?

A. Japanese
B. Korean
C. Mandarin
D. Vietnamese

Correct answer: B. Korean
Parasite is a South Korean film told primarily in Korean.

6. Where did the Apollo 13 filmmakers shoot some scenes to record the actors really floating?

A. A plane flying a reduced-gravity path
B. A purpose-built revolving room
C. A tank with cables below the actors
D. A wind tunnel with adjustable air pressure

Correct answer: A. A plane flying a reduced-gravity path
Ron Howard's team filmed aboard an aircraft whose flight path created short intervals of weightlessness.

7. What plant shape inspired the Cannes Film Festival's top prize, the Palme d'Or?

A. An oak leaf
B. An olive branch
C. A laurel wreath
D. A palm frond

Correct answer: D. A palm frond
The gold palm echoes the palm motif from the city of Cannes' coat of arms.

8. Who directed the 1950 Japanese film Rashomon?

A. Kenji Mizoguchi
B. Yasujirō Ozu
C. Akira Kurosawa
D. Masaki Kobayashi

Correct answer: C. Akira Kurosawa
Akira Kurosawa directed Rashomon. The film helped introduce more international audiences to Japanese cinema.

9. Thelma Schoonmaker earned her first Academy Award for editing which film?

A. Raging Bull
B. Goodfellas
C. Casino
D. The Departed

Correct answer: A. Raging Bull
Schoonmaker won for editing Raging Bull at the 1981 Academy Awards. The film marked the beginning of her long run as Martin Scorsese's regular editor.

10. For which film did Hattie McDaniel become the first Black person to win an Academy Award?

A. Since You Went Away
B. Show Boat
C. In This Our Life
D. Gone with the Wind

Correct answer: D. Gone with the Wind
McDaniel received the supporting actress award for Gone with the Wind at the 1940 ceremony.

11. Which film won Outstanding Picture, the award now called Best Picture, at the first Academy Awards in 1929?

A. The Jazz Singer
B. Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans
C. Wings
D. The Crowd

Correct answer: C. Wings
Wings won Outstanding Picture. Sunrise won a separate award for Unique and Artistic Picture at that ceremony.

12. Where is the optical soundtrack on a conventional sound-on-film print?

A. On a magnetic track across the middle of each image
B. On a narrow strip beside the picture frames
C. In the shape of the holes that pull the film forward
D. On a label around the outside of the reel

Correct answer: B. On a narrow strip beside the picture frames
An optical soundtrack sits beside the images. The projector uses light to read variations in the strip and turn them back into sound.

13. Which film was Satyajit Ray's feature debut and the first entry in his Apu Trilogy?

A. The Music Room
B. Aparajito
C. The World of Apu
D. Pather Panchali

Correct answer: D. Pather Panchali
Pather Panchali opened the trilogy in 1955. Aparajito and The World of Apu continued it.

14. What does the 70 in the IMAX 15/70 film format measure?

A. The width of the film in millimeters
B. The length of a single frame in millimeters
C. The running speed in frames per second
D. The screen width in feet

Correct answer: A. The width of the film in millimeters
The projection print is 70 millimeters wide. The 15 refers to the number of perforations per frame.

15. How old must a film be before the U.S. National Film Registry can select it?

A. At least 20 years old
B. At least 5 years old
C. At least 10 years old
D. At least 25 years old

Correct answer: C. At least 10 years old
The Library of Congress considers films for their contribution to American film heritage. A film must still exist and be at least 10 years old.